

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13 JUSE-00
NSAE-00 CTME-00 SNM-05 TRSE-00 ICA-11 NSC-05
OES-09 OMB-01 L-03 /070 W
-----074478 040503Z /15

R 031201Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8793
INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
DEA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 22166

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, TH
SUBJECT: DEATH SENTENCE FOR TWO DRUG TRAFFICKERS UNDER
ARTICLE 27

REF: BANGKOK 11743

1. ON AUGUST 2, 1978, PM KRIANGSAK INVOKED ARTICLE 27
OF THE INTERIM CONSTITUTION AND SENTENCED TWO DRUG
TRAFFICKERS TO SUMMARY EXECUTION. THE TWO MEN WERE SHOT
AT DAWN ON AUGUST 3. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT
KRIANGSAK, WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED RELUCTANCE TO
EXERCISE HIS POWERS UNDER ARTICLE 27 FOR THIS PURPOSE,
HAS SENTENCED SOMEONE TO DEATH. KRIANGSAK FOUND THE
TWO MEN GUILTY ON TWO COUNTS--PRODUCING HEROIN AND
POSSESSING THE DRUG WITH INTENT TO SELL. THEY WERE ALSO
CHARGED WITH ENDANGERING NATIONAL SECURITY AND THE
ECONOMY.

2. THE TWO DRUG TRAFFICKERS, MEE HESIAM SAE HENG AND
SIM PUNGWAH, WERE ARRESTED ON APRIL 21 BY THAI NARCOTICS
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SUPPRESSION POLICE. MEE HESIAM SAE HENG, AKA CHAN
HSIH-TSIN, WAS ARRESTED IN FRONT OF THE PRESIDENT HOTEL
IN BANGKOK AS HE ATTEMPTED TO SELL 10 KILOS OF PURE
HEROIN BASE TO AN UNDERCOVER POLICE OFFICER. NARCOTICS
SUPPRESSION POLICE SUBSEQUENTLY RAIDED A HOUSE IN
THON BURI, SEIZING 31 KILOS OF HEROIN BASE AND NO. 3
HEROIN AND 37 ITEMS OF SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT USED IN

REFINING HEROIN. ARRESTED DURING THE RAID WAS
SIM PUNGWAH (AKA SUNG HONG-KWAH), A HONG KONG CHINESE
WHO HAD ACTED AS HESIAM'S CHIEF CHEMIST FOR THE THREE
YEARS THAT THE HEROIN REFINERY WAS IN OPERATION.

3. THE ARRESTS WERE THE RESULT OF A TWO-AND-ONE-HALF
YEAR INVESTIGATION BY THAI POLICE AND DEA. RELATED TO
THESE ARRESTS IN THAILAND, DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENTS
RAIDED A HEROIN REFINERY IN NEW YORK CITY AND SEIZED
40 KILOS OF HEROIN. ABRAMOWITZ

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Message Attributes

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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CAPITAL PUNISHMENT, DRUG TRAFFIC
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
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TAGS: SNAR, TH
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